

"I am the vine, you are the branches; abide in me and you will bear much fruit." John 15:5



# Vine & Branches

News from St. Elizabeth's Episcopal Church, 720 N. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96817



March  
2006

The Right Reverend  
Richard S. O. Chang,  
Bishop

The Reverend  
Jodene S. Hawkins,  
Priest-in-Charge

The Reverend Dr.  
Gerald G Gifford  
Rector Emeritus

The Reverend  
Peter S. M. Fan,  
Chinese Language  
Priest

Lyn Jeffers  
Interim Choir Director

Marie Wang  
Organist

Katherine Crosier  
Parish Administrator  
Graphic Design

Stuart Ching  
Senior Warden

Francis Kau  
Junior Warden

Caren-Jean Esaki  
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Sue Yap, Contributor

Website:  
[www.stelizabeth720.org](http://www.stelizabeth720.org)

## From Mother Jodene

*Aloha Beloved in Christ,*

In the recent news we saw pictures and read stories of New Orleans strutting the stuff of their hope and endurance by hosting Mardi Gras in the midst of the devastation following hurricane Katrina. At the Conference for Endowed Episcopal Parishes in Alexandria, Virginia Lowell Ing, Glenn Woo and I heard first hand stories from priests and church members from New Orleans of the devastation their churches suffered both in loss of property, and loss of lives. Some church members have yet to find out about loved ones who have not been heard from in the aftermath of the storm. They also expressed their profound gratefulness to all of *us* for the help and assistance from Episcopal churches all over the U.S. They said it was churches helping churches, that gave our brothers and sisters in Christ the strength to hold on to their hope and hold fast to their faith. It is churches helping churches that is helping Episcopal churches to rebuild in Louisiana. I am so proud of St. Elizabeth's generosity of \$2839.00 given through Episcopal Relief and Development immediately following Katrina. Every priest at the conference said that ERD was right there on the front end of the disaster. ERD showed up with no delays to provide assistance for the churches and others in need. ERD's presence was *our* presence. ERD'S help was *our* help. *Our* compassion gave churches and members the courage to go on. Well done, good and faithful servants!

There are three important disciplines that we are asked to give our special attention and *intention* for the season of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. St. Elizabeth's generous offering to help in the aftermath of Katrina was 'almsgiving.' Almsgiving is simply giving to people in need of help. St. Elizabeth's worships in a neighborhood in which families with

children have many needs for help. Every Sunday we assist families in a Loaves and Fishes kind of way. Through the loose plate offerings and food donations, St. Elizabeth's is able to supplement nutritious food for needy families. Often the Food Bank runs short of protein items like canned meats and short of canned fruits and vegetables which help children and mother's stay healthy. Yes, of course, these items cost more. That's why they're not so readily available in the food bank lines. That's why we who have been richly blessed by God can help.

As a Lenten discipline that we do together, I would like to invite St. Elizabeth's to consider a Loaves and Fishes approach. If your discipline for Lent was to fast from some food or discretionary item in your life, consider offering the like amount you would have spent on that item to God as *alms* in the form of food, or in *alms* as donations designated for food. St. Elizabeth's will have a Loaves and Fishes basket on every Sunday in Lent.

If you are able to serve as a Loaves and Fishes Angel on a Sunday morning to help distribute the donated food to our families in need and to the food bank in our Education building, please let me know. If you are able to offer fruit from your trees, Loaves and Fishes Angels I trust will be able to distribute the perishable items immediately. And offer a prayer for people in need when you buy your food or offer your donation. The prayer can be simple, like: "Lord, help the family and children who will receive this food in their time of need. Let them know that Christian people at St. Elizabeth's care about them. In Jesus' name. Amen."

A simple Loaves and Fishes approach to Lent can offer us the opportunity to combine the three disciplines of prayer,



*continued on inside page*

fasting and almsgiving embodied in the practical sharing food with needy families. When we help the poor and needy, we help the people for whom Jesus always had compassion and a tender heart. The purpose of all Lenten disciplines is to bring us closer to the heart of God. St. Elizabeth's Loaves and Fishes Basket is one practical way to do that. May God bless each of us on this journey towards the Cross and Easter.

*Mother Jodene +*



## Lenten Questions and Answers from Mother Jodene

*Where does the tradition of ashes come from?*

Ashes are a Lenten symbol taken from earliest biblical history. After Job lost everything, he sat in ashes in sorrow and mourning. (Job 2:28) When Esther's uncle Mordecai heard the king's decree that all

the Jews in Persia were ordered to be killed he covered himself with ashes. (Esther 4:1) When the king of Nineveh heard that all of his people were to be destroyed, he removed his royal robe and put on sackcloth and ashes. (Jonah 3:5-10)

Ashes are a symbol of repentance, mourning and death. However, they are also a sign of new life. In all of nature and life something has to die in order for something new to grow. Lent offers each of us the opportunity to do some spiritual housecleaning. We are offered an opportunity to sort out in our lives what needs to be discarded as it is no longer useful and to dispose of that which is genuinely harmful to us or to others. The purpose? That the new things that God has for us might have space to grow in us.

The season of Lent gives Christian people the opportunity to take upon themselves the spiritual disciplines of Prayer, Almsgiving and Fasting. These disciplines soften the soil of our souls. In that softened soil of our souls, God can help us grow closer to God. In that softened soil of our souls God can help truth and righteousness, mercy and forgiveness, justice and compassion grow in the field of our lives.

### *Why do we cover the cross during Lent?*

Veiling the cross reminds us of the barrier that our sins and brokenness place between us and God. Our vision of God can get cloudy and we become out of touch with God and the need for God in our life. The veil also reminds us that on Good Friday the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom when Jesus died. In Jesus' death and resurrection, those barriers between us and God have been broken through and healed. At Easter the veils are removed symbolizing the gift of Jesus restoring us to relationship with God and of Jesus' great gift to us of eternal life by his death upon the Cross.

## Children's Outreach Center begins first program March 29th

*"READ TO ME" and  
"THE STORY APRON"*

We are very excited to begin our first program at St. Elizabeth's Children's Outreach Center for our neighborhood children. Our first offering is the 'Read to Me' literacy enhancement program for ages 3-11 beginning March 29<sup>th</sup> from 3-4 pm. In cooperation with Kamehameha Schools and the Hawaii 4-H program, expertly trained high school students will read classic children's stories. Their story telling will be enhanced with a 'Story Apron' the each student has created to hold props to help the children stay engaged with the stories. The program will run though every Wednesday 3-4 pm through May.

#### NEEDS:

1. Two-three volunteers each Wednesday to assist the children in their listening skills and with use of the bathroom. We will have a sign up sheet as too many adults all at one time can be overwhelming to little children.
2. Donations of nutritious snacks in 'ready to serve' packets (easy to eat here, or take home, no clean up required) Please: NO nuts or peanuts in the snacks—many children are deathly allergic!
3. Volunteers who want to learn the 'Read to Me' skills and techniques so that St. Elizabeth's can be equipped to offer the program in the future, perhaps on different days or at different times. Let us know the dates you are available so we can put together a schedule for volunteers.

### Average Church Attendance February 2006

8:15 am service	100
Chinese service	6



L-R: Beverly Lee (Lowell's sister) , Mother Jodene, Lowell Ing, Daniel Lee (Lowell's brother in law), Glenn Woo. St. Elizabeth's group at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC for tour and Evensong service during the February Education Conference for Endowed Episcopal Parishes.

## St. Elizabeth's members participate in the Conference for Endowed Episcopal Parishes

Lowell Ing, Glenn Woo and Mother Jodene were designated by our vestry to represent St. Elizabeth's at an intensive learning conference in Alexandria, Virginia in February. Over 400 Episcopalians from endowed parishes came from across the U.S. to learn more about effective financial management, about vision and action plans for properties use, and about how to stimulate church growth and outreach to surrounding neighborhoods. I was very impressed that so many people took time off from work and their everyday lives to devote to learning how to best help their churches. We witnessed a beautiful rainbow of people from all sizes of parishes and levels of endowed financial assets.

We learned specifically about valuable resources available to Episcopal churches for building projects and for how to put property to use so it that enhances the financial strength of a parish. We were given practical action plans for outreach development. We heard prophetic preaching from both the pulpits of Christ Church, Alexandria (George Washington's church) and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The Rectors and Deans were challenged in faith, preaching and action by noted theologians and ethicists. The conference was overflowing with information that will be reported to the vestry and put forward for consideration as St. Elizabeth's vestry develops our strategic plan. Though it was cold and a long way to travel, the conference was extraordinarily worthwhile for St. Elizabeth's future. Thank you to Lowell and Glenn for their time and talents devoted on behalf of our church. Mahalo to our vestry for providing this rich opportunity for me to learn better how to serve St. Elizabeth's. -Mother Jodene

## A.S.A.P.

Ever wonder about the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we will begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There's work to do, deadlines to meet;  
You've got no time to spare,  
But as you hurry and scurry-  
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

In the midst of family chaos,  
"Quality time" is rare.  
Do your best; let God do the rest-  
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

It may seem like your worries  
Are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather-  
ASAP - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He'll respond to all your needs  
A.S.A.P. - ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.

## March Birthdays

Obeyi Helly	3/3
Roy Chee	3/5
Doreen Ching	3/7
Aadriana White	3/9
Kui On Won	3/10
Sarah Bush	3/14
Miranda Young	3/17
Haku Blaisdell	3/17
Gerald Lau	3/29



## Congratulations!



Dr. Gerald G. Gifford and wife, Polly celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary!

Over \$1000 Raised to  
benefit our Children's  
Outreach Center  
**Give My Regards  
to Broadway  
Concert, March 4th**



L-R: REX Nockengust, Mother Jodene, Don Conover and Stuart Ching

What a way to help neighborhood children! St. Elizabeth's and guests were treated to a fantastic concert of Broadway tunes by soloist Rex Nockengust and accompanist Don Conover. All time favorites like "Maria" from West Side Story, "Moon River" and "Memories" filled our beautiful church with music to delight young and older alike. We were treated not just to music but also to light hearted humor and St. Elizabeth's famed refreshments of cookies, tea sandwiches, sushi, nibbles and goodies thanks to the generosity of our church family. Thank you one and all for your support for this event.

**Walter Kau played a short organ dedication program prior to the Broadway concert on March 4th:**

**Postlude in D (Henry Smart)**

**Ave Maria (Franz Schubert)**

**Crown Him with Many Crowns  
(arr. Jerry Westen Kuehler)**

**Mahalo to the following persons and organizations for their generous gifts to the Organ Fund**

**St. Elizabeth's Society**

Walter Kau, in memory of Mabel Kau, Ruth Lum and Violet Liu

**The St. Mary the Virgin Society**

Bank of Hawaii

David Hirashiki, in honor of Mildred T. Hirashiki

Eunice C. H. Gee in memory of Robert W. Y. Gee

Mildred and Jerry Goo

Helen Heu Ing

Thomas and Peggy Ishida in memory of Linda H. Ishida

Francis and Pearl Kau

Kuraudia USA, Ltd.

Ethel M. Kuwasaki

George Tyau Estate, in memory of George K. C. and Elsie L. Tyau

Francis and Puanani Woo

**The St. John the Baptist Society**

Sarah and Jeremy Bush

Annie L. Chock, Sarah A. Bush and

Paul B. Chock in memory of

Nathaniel U. Chock

Early Bird Investments

Caren Chun-Esaki (on behalf of the Chun Family)

in memory of Walter T. H. Chun

Ken and Sharon Ishida in memory of Ben and Helen Sakaguchi

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond K. C. Leong in memory of Kin Hung

and Lo Lin Leong

Juliette Ling in memory of Elizabeth Mark Ling

Leslie and Cheryl Mitsuka

Ann Nagamine, Kaitlin and Alex

Iris Park in memory of Irene Ho Shigenaga

Gertrude Tyau, in memory of Henry A. Tyau and Tai Lam Lau

Lillian Tyau, in memory of Henry Akui and Tai Lam Tyau

David D. W. Tyau in memory of Albert and Vivian Tyau

Wallace and Esther Tyau, in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tyau

Flora L. Wong, Belinda W. Chang and Elena W. Guinn

In memory of Alfred E. C. Wong

T. C. Young in honor of Juliet W. Young

**The Visitation Society**

Anonymous

Nancy Shim-Au

Roy Chee

Andrew Ching in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Y.F. Ching

Barbara Ching, in memory of William and Bernice Jay

Daniel and Ethel Lo Ching

Lorene Ching

Patsy Ann Ching, in memory of Kenneth T. K. Ching

Richard O. Ching

Stuart W. H. Ching, in honor of Patsy Ann Ching

Wah Chan Ching, in memory of Imo Miriam Shim Ching

Bertha A. Chong in memory of Harry H. Chong

Charles Chu in memory of Beatrice C. Chu

Kenneth and Carole M. Fujishige

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Goo

Kit and Jodene Hawkins

Kenneth Ho in honor of Kenneth and Lily Ho

Richard and Dorothy Jung

David Kaloi

Bernice Kau

Mr. and Mrs. James Kealoha and Shane Kealoha

in memory of Margaret K. Ignacio

Shane Kealoha

The Kleinschmidt Family



Johnny and Mildred Kuniyoshi in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Iehiro Takiguchi

Paul K. C. and Brenda K. N. Kwan

Rev. Peter Fan and Doris Lam

Chester Ling, in honor of Robert and Nancy Ling, and Don Ling

Paul and Vi Loo

Samuel B. Y. Lum in memory of Ethel H. Lum

Carol A. Prestowitz, in honor of Bernice and William Jay

Kathryn Ramones, in memory of Edward E. Ramones, Sr.  
 H. Dale Sato  
 Barbara C. Tatsuguchi, in memory of Henry H. Y. and Maude Ching  
 Lilian Y. Torigoe  
 David and Anita Tyau  
 Wesley Tyau in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley K. I. Tyau and family  
 Wilfred and Marjory Tyau in memory of Frank Shan Fong Tyau  
 Harold and Marietta Ware  
 Mrs. Albert Wong in honor of Nancy Shim Au  
 Betty Wong and Colin Wong in memory of Walter T. L. Wong  
 Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Wong in honor of Patrick Kau  
 Frank Yap Jr. and family, in memory of Christina Yap  
 Larry Young and family

### The St. Joseph Society

Janet L. Auyong  
 Rose Fong  
 Beryl Goo in honor of Doris Goo  
 Doris Goo  
 Allen K. Hoe in honor of Nainoa K. Hoe  
 Ellen Kong, Trust for Kong Joint Trust  
 Rosemary Lau  
 Shirley A. Nishihira  
 Estan Rabut  
 Kathleen Y. Hise and Robert Thomas  
 Mr. and Mrs. Francis Tominaga  
 Jeanette Lee Wong

## Caring for the Ones You Love, March 5

Deacon Pat's Workshop on how to become more skilled in making caring visits in home, hospital and care home had over 30 members participating. We are thankful for Deacon Pat's thorough presentation, for her caring presence and the practical skills she presented. There was lively discussion and a question and answer time. Not only did Deacon Pat offer her gifts to St. Elizabeth's, her husband Donald joined right in to sing with the Ringers and Singers during worship. He also offered some of his own practical experiences which enhanced our learning. Mahalo to Deacon Pat Reynolds and Donald Reynolds for sharing their insights and experience with us.

*Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind.*

Henri Frederic Amiel



## Ragdolls2Love Update

Children ravaged by war, a tsunami, H.I.V., or some other tragedy ... 15,000 and counting in 20 countries have found solace in a little ambassador of love, a simple cloth ragdoll with a big red smile and a red heart! Thank you to all of you who have supported and helped in this project started by Mary Page Jones.

The newest participants in making the ragdolls are some high school girls from St. Andrew's Priory School. Nora Kurosu will be working with the girls and the little Ragdolls2Love will find their way to St. Elizabeth's Church. The Sunday School will send these special dolls to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Sara Horak in Mosul, Iraq. Sara was commissioned out of the UH ROTC program while a student at Hawaii Pacific University. Sara is now stationed in a Pediatric Ward in a Hospital in Mosul.

Nora Kurosu and others who may be sewing the ragdolls would appreciate any donation of materials — fabric, batting, etc. Thelma Lai Chang had sent fabric from San Francisco. The fabric was used, the ragdolls blessed and sent on their way to Mosul. Your donations may be left in the basket with the Ragdolls2Love waiting to be blessed and sent to children via Mosul, Iraq or Wapiti, Wyoming.

It was on April 18, 2004 that some 65 ragdolls were blessed and commissioned at St. Elizabeth's — sent on their way with God's blessings and a commission to bring comfort to the children who receive them. The dolls also carried our prayers to the parents of the children and let them know that people of St. Elizabeth's and this country do not forget them.

Mary Page Jones continues to update us on the Ragdolls2Love Project. She sends her aloha from Wapiti — 'where the wind blows, the waves aren't and the wild creatures roam...not just Bob and me!'



# Sunday School News...

This year the Sunday School will present a series of Lenten calls to worship. The play, *The Lenten Candles* by Paul Dyck, is produced by special arrangement with Contemporary Drama Service, PO Box 7710, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-7710. The call-to-worship readings provide a sense of continuity throughout the Lenten season and focus on the worship services.

The Lenten calls to worship begins with "A Sober Season – Lent" and culminates with "Up From the Grave He Arose!" – Easter!

The Sunday School will have Easter baskets for all the children on Easter Sunday and an Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter service. Please sign up on the reception table – the Sunday School needs donations for the baskets and 'egg hunters' – children to hunt for Easter eggs, please sign up!

*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8*

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Wait! I need to add a P.S. to my prayers."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*  
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